MARYLAND FISHERIES

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THE NEW ACT CREATING A THREE-MEMBER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 1 of Article 19A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1924, as enacted by Chapter 29 of the Acts of 1922, title "Conservation of Natural Resources," sub-title "Organization of Conservation Department," creating a Conservation Commission consisting of three members and transferring the rights, powers and duties of the Conservation Commissioner to the Conservation Commission as hereafter provided, and providing for their compensation, method of appointment, their removal and filling of vacancies, their duties and powers, and repealing Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* that Section 1 of Article 19A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1924, as enacted by Chapter 29 of the Acts of 1922, title "Conservation of Natural Resources," sub-title "Organization of Conservation Department," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, so as to read as follows:

1. The Conservation Department is hereby created and established. The control and executive functions of this Department shall be vested in a Commission to be known as the

Conservation Commission, composed of three members, citizens and residents of this State, all of whom shall be men specially informed, with practical experience and well qualified, in one or more of the following subjects; oysters, clams, fish, crabs, terrapin, wild fowl, birds, game and fur-bearing animals. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party, and he shall designate one of said members to act as Chairman of the Commission. The term of the members of the Commission shall be four years from the first Monday in June succeeding their appointment. The Governor shall have power of removal for cause and he shall fill vacancies in the Commission however occurring. In all cases the decision of a majority of the members of the Commission shall be binding. The salary of the Chairman of the Commission shall be Thirty-Five ($3500.00) Dollars a year, and the salary of each of the other members shall be Three Thousand ($3000.00) Dollars a year and they shall each be entitled to receive in addition thereto the necessary travelling expenses and disbursements incurred by them in the discharge of their official duties. The Commission shall from time to time adopt such by-laws and rules of procedure for the conduct of the Conservation Department as they may deem necessary. On the taking effect of this Act, all the rights, powers, duties, obligations and functions of the Conservation Commissioner, under any provisions of law, shall be transferred to and thereafter be exercised and performed by the said Conservation Commission as created by this Act, who shall be the lawful successor of the said Conservation Commissioner, to the same extent and effect as if the said Conservation Commission had been named in said provisions of law as the body or official upon whom the said rights, powers, duties, obligations and functions were conferred.

THE POWER TO REGULATE TAKING WILD BIRDS, WILD ANIMALS AND FISH. Having a due regard for the distribution, abundance, economic value and breeding habits of wild birds, wild animals, and fish in inland waters, the Conservation Commission as a part of the duties imposed on it by Article 39, Section 3, of the Code, is hereby vested with the necessary power and authority to determine when, to what extent, if at all, and by what means it is desirable to restrict, or prohibit in any degree the provisions of law obtaining in any county in this State for the hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage or export of any wild bird, wild animal, or fish from non-

tidal waters and may upon its own initiative or upon written petition of fifty licensed residents of any county propose regulations for such purpose. The full text of any regulations proposed shall be published ten days before the same may be acted upon and shall name the time and place that the matters mentioned therein will be taken up, at which time any interested citizen shall be heard. Such publication shall be made in a newspaper published in the county, and, if there be none such, in a newspaper in the adjoining county or section or in such other manner as may be convenient. If the commission is satisfied that the proposed regulation, or any part thereof is advisable, such regulation, or any part thereof, may be adopted and if so, it shall be published in the manner directed for proposing the same and shall name the date when it is to become effective. It shall be a misdemeanor to violate such regulation, or any part thereof, and any person convicted of such violation shall be fined not less than ten or more than one hundred dollars and may be sentenced to thirty days in jail, either, or both. A copy of any regulation adopted by the commission shall be mailed to the clerk of the circuit court, who shall make a record thereof and cause the same to be posted in front of the courthouse of the county.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That immediately upon the taking effect of this Act, the office of the Conservation Commissioner, except as that term is used to designate a member of the Commission hereby created, shall cease, determinate and terminate.

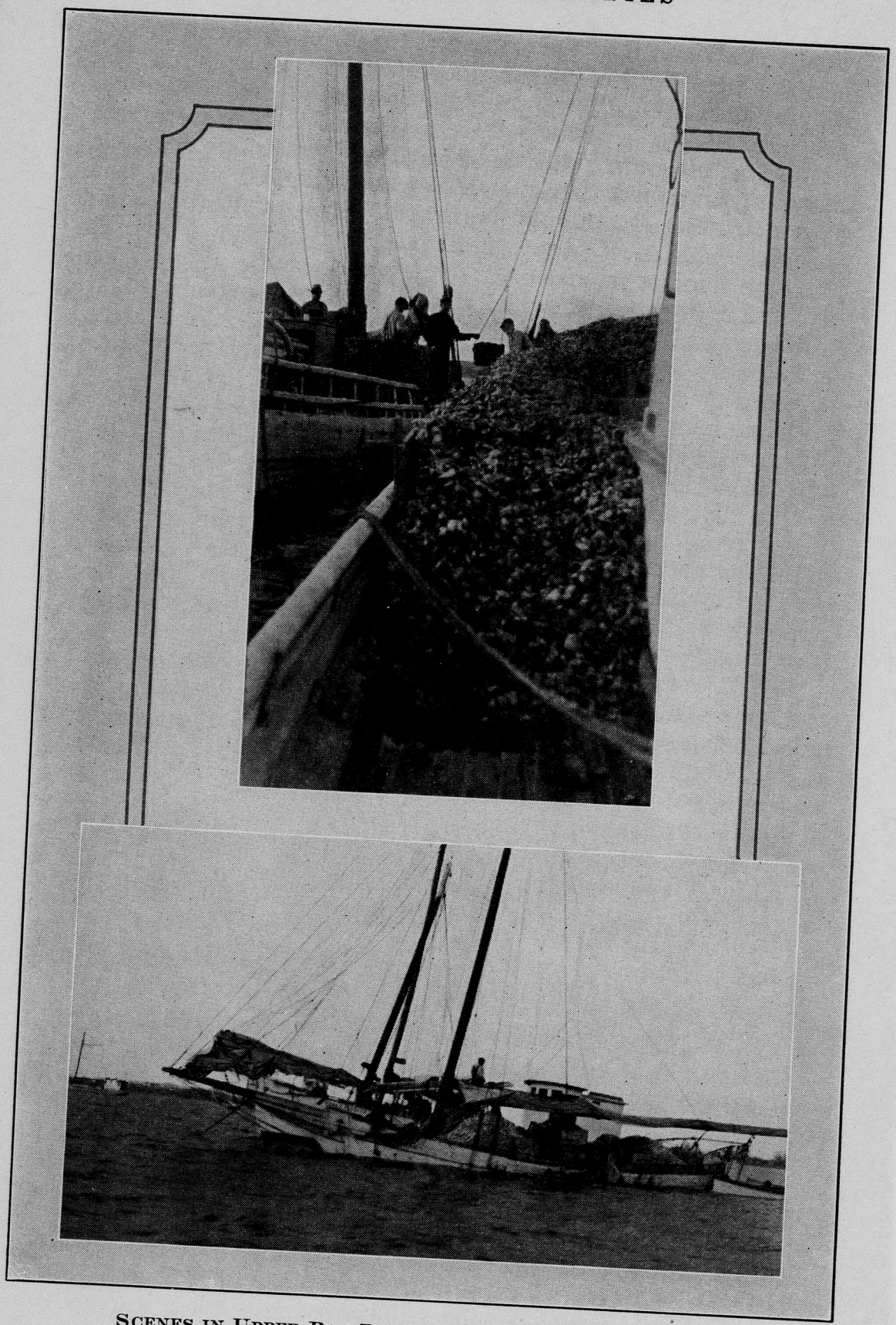
SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That wherever the word "Commissioner" occurs in said Article 19A, or any other law relative to the Conservation Department of Maryland, the word "Commission" shall be substituted.

SEC. 4 *And be it further enacted,* That all Acts or parts of Acts heretofore enacted not inconsistent herewith shall be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1935.

CATCHES LARGEST TROUT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mr. Phil Reecher, 602 Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, caught the largest trout on record this season, when on April 20, he landed a brown trout measuring 23¾ inches long and weighing 4 pounds 3 ounces. This fish was taken in Wright or Eckstine Run as it is also called.



SCENES IN UPPER BAY DURING SEED OYSTER OPERATIONS

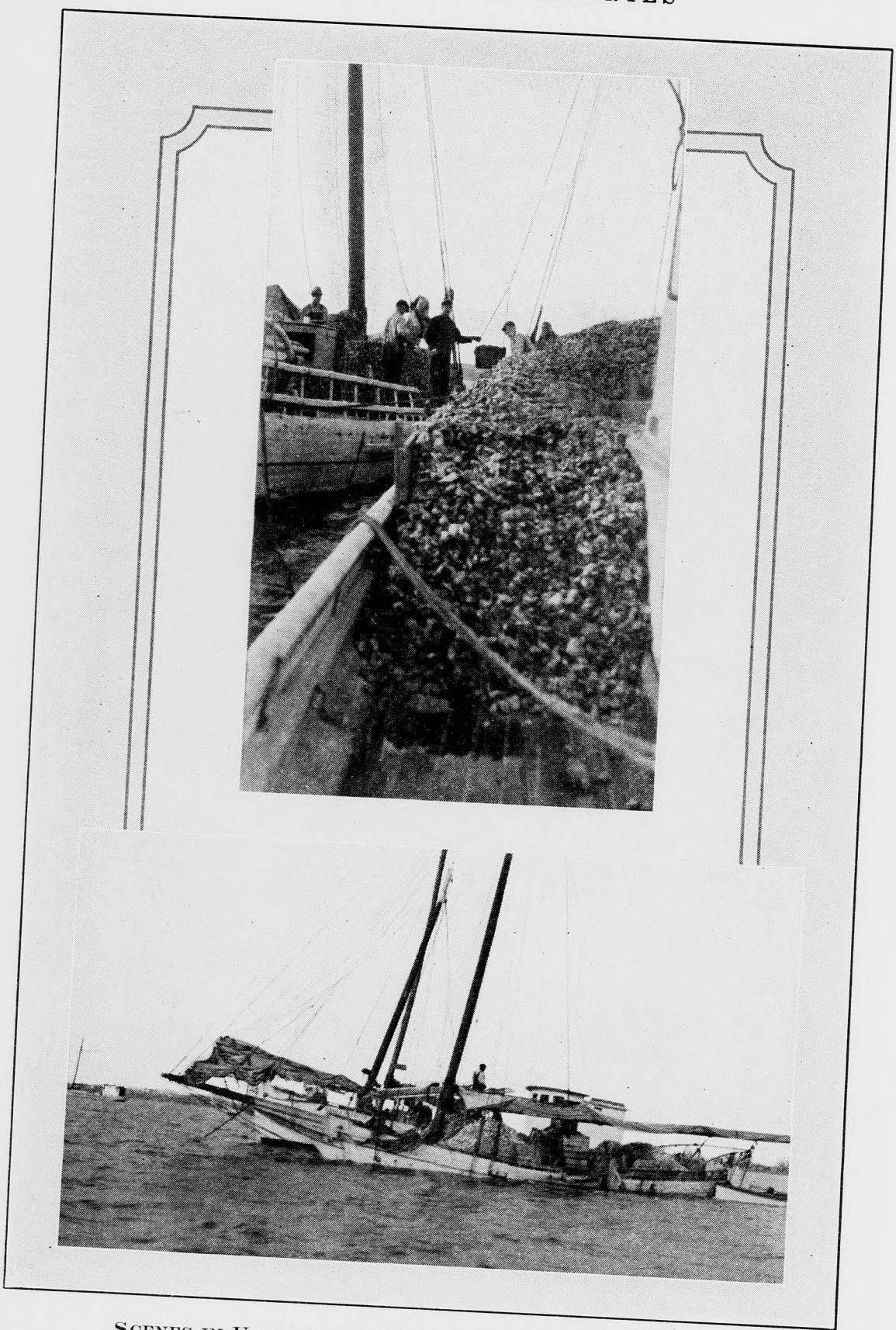
SPRING SEED OYSTER OPERATIONS

THE TRANSFER OF SEED OYSTERS from the head of the Bay, which started on April 16, when the legal oyster planters of Maryland were given a 10-day period in which to secure seed stock for their leased areas, was followed by the State's transplanting of seed to the depleted public rocks. This work began on Monday, April 29.

Unusual activity marked the spring transplanting operations. Between 50 and 60 dredge boats obtained permits to carry on this work. These boats held licenses for the past season's dredging operations on the public rocks of Chesapeake Bay. The Conservation Department had not anticipated a very great demand for seed oysters from the State planters, it being estimated that not more than 100,000 bushels would be removed for this purpose. However, due to the availability of Government funds (under the RFC) for the purchase of seed oysters by planters, nearly twice the number of bushels anticipated were removed by the dredgers and transplanted to leased bottoms. This was helpful to the dredgers and will in turn benefit the oyster industry when these oysters mature and result in a better grade of oysters being placed on the market.

Following the successful results obtained from the planting of seed oysters in Tangier Sound by the State last year, it was the opinion of the Advisory Committee that another planting of similar proportions should be made on Mud Rock, which lies on the westerly side of Tangier Sound, below Deals Island. All of the seed planted there last year doubled in size, and by next fall should give additional employment to the waterman of Somerset County.

Other State plantings of seed are proposed for Wicomico and Nanticoke Rivers, Fishing Bay, Honga River, Choptank River, (where we had a heavy mortality of oysters about a year ago, and as a consequence the watermen had little opportunity to work during the past season), Tred Avon River and some of the other tributaries of the Eastern Shore. The largest bay plantings will go on the so-called bay shore dredging area, known as Holland Point. The department planted about 50,000 bushels of seed here a year ago, and the young oysters have made excellent growth. A sufficient space will be left between this and last year's plantings, so that the latter may be worked upon by the dredgers next winter, if it is found that the oysters have attained a sufficient size to warrant it.



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Additional State transplantings will be made above Sandy Point, where seed will be moved from the vicinity of Tolchester to areas off the mouth of the Magothy River and southerly of Bodkin Point. Love Point is also under consideration for the removal of seed oysters.

The very extensive seed beds at the head of the Bay have been most prolific in the production of young oysters. These oysters are in a healthy condition and show considerable growth. While a State patrol boat was stationed in the Bay to see that the dredgers worked only on the designated bars, it is gratifying to record that practically no oyster shells were removed along with the seed oysters. The oysters ran between 800 and 1,200 to the bushel and were the best seed taken from the head of the Bay in the history of the Department.

At the close of the transplanting operations the Conservation Commissioner would recommend a survey of all the seed-producing bars in the upper Bay region. While none of the bars were worked down too close, it is nevertheless important for the Department to have an accurate check-up on the condition of the bars and the quantity of seed available for another season.

At the time this magazine goes to press, the Department has completed operations in connection with the moving of oysters from certain tributary waters where they were overcrowded to other areas where they have sufficient room to properly develop. This work was carried on in St. George's River, St. Mary's County, Hackett's Point at the mouth of Severn River in Anne Arundel County, Chester River, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties and in Tar Bay, Dorchester County. Oyster tongers were employed in these operations, and these watermen were most enthusiastic and anticipate good results therefrom.

PRACTICAL FISH COOKERY

Splendidly aiding and abetting the Bureau of Fisheries' efforts to stimulate the demand for fish and fishery products of the country is the recent pamphlet (Spec. Memo. 3215) entitled "Practical Fish Cookery", compiled by Agnes I. Webster, Home Economist, and W. T. Conn, Technologist, of the Bureau's staff. This pamphlet is available (free) to all those requesting it.

In addition to a large number of attractive receipts for the preparation of the various species of fish and shellfish com-

monly found in our markets, the pamphlet also describes the food value, the seasons for the various fishes, proper methods of handling fish, how to determine whether the fish or shellfish purchased are fresh, the meaning of certain terms employed by the trade and much other valuable general information.

CONSERVATION WINS PUBLIC OPINION

BY ALFRED L. NELSON

(Reprinted in part from *The Minnesota Conservationist*)

ALMOST lost in the maze of commercial, governmental and political campaigns for public attention has been the campaign for natural resource conservation. Even so, there has been, during the past fifteen years an increasing accomplishment of educational and informative progress on this subject. It has been spasmodic and for the most part, without proper direction. It has been small and ineffectual, when compared with the least of others. It has, however, accomplished that wherein most others failed, i. e.: permanency. Inasmuch as conservation has not been sold to conservationists by high-pressure salesmanship, there should be no back-swing of public sentiment against it.

There is now an unknown strength of public support for conservation practice which should assure a better understanding and growth in the future.

Evidence? Almost every organization of state-wide and national scope has registered its interest in natural resources by appointing a standing committee on conservation. It is probable that such committees have functioned only on rare occasions, but the fact that the importance of the undertaking is recognized and the organization stands ready to support every worthwhile proposal is a distinct achievement.

Almost every political platform and every candidate for office has a wooden plank on conservation. Perhaps not all the conservation speeches and pledges were accepted by the voters, but a fair percentage of information must have been added to the conservational knowledge of the citizens.

State and national conservation departments have expanded through support afforded by both state legislatures and the national congress. This may have been slow and dis-

appointing to many, but the national growth has been healthy and permanent. Each year new areas are being set aside as parks or forests for public use. Extended facilities and uses for all outdoor areas are being provided. The public conception of forestry as merely tree planting and fire fighting is being supplanted by forestry as the art of administering land for the growth of tree crops. The old order of farms following forests is being disproved by the bitter experiences of thousands who are finding that not all lands which have produced wonderful forests will make profitable farms. Forest communities are beginning to realize that their most valuable asset for permanent prosperity can be a green and producing forest.

These and countless other points indicate the trend of public thinking and the result of years of conservation publicity. Much has had the power of organization behind it, some has been individual effort, and both have been aided by state and national conservation departments; none of it has been accomplished by the black art of propaganda.

I have concluded that the most important factors and causes of public sentiment for conservation may be enumerated as follows:

Outdoor recreation: With the advent of the reliable automobile, paved highways, and increasing leisure time, the American people took to the roads to see the country. Back in 1918 there were a few thousand; in a few years the number rose to hundreds of thousands, and for several years it has been over the fifty-million mark. They visited the forest areas of which they had read. They visited the national and state parks and forests. They viewed with amazed eyes what has happened to the wealth of natural resources. Perhaps they encountered the unexpected experience of a forest fire. It is impossible that fifty million people should travel from one end of the country to the other, year after year, without forming some very decided and definite opinions regarding the condition and need of natural resources. They have demanded, and received, increased opportunities to use the forests. They have influenced conservation trends in every state in the Union. Consciously or not, every person has been forming the opinion and desire for a conservation program that would perpetuate the opportunity for him or her to enjoy the outdoors for the future.

Youth: Since 1910 the youth of the country has had an opportunity to absorb knowledge as the pioneer youth learned —out in the woods. In that year the Boy Scouts of America was organized. Similar organizations have been formed since, for girls as well as boys. All are built on the principle of understanding and wise use of the out-of-doors, and they have had a very large part in the spread of this principle to the American people. There can be little doubt but that the influence of 5,800,000 Boy Scouts who have graduated from that organization and become the voters and leaders of every community in the land, must be given credit for valuable services in the cause of conservation. Each year hundreds of thousands of boys and girls have the opportunity to spend a week or more in the organization camps. This experience has given the American youth a contact which their parents probably did not have. Elementary conservation is being taught in most schools. As a consequence the young people know considerably more about the fundamentals of conservation than any previous generation. The knowledge thus obtained will prove of immense value in planning and building for the future.

State and national: For about a decade the state and national park, forest and conservation departments have been organized to give systematic and extended service to the public. This has been in the form of published literature, moving pictures and illustrated lectures, and exhibits. They have been offered and given only upon request; there has been no effort to force them upon an unwilling public.

Organizations: The list of organizations interested in conservation is an imposing one. Many of them, such as the American Tree Association, the American Forestry Association, American Game Protective League, Izaak Walton League, and scores of others have a direct interest in one particular phase of conservation. Others, such as Women's Federated Clubs, the Parent-Teacher Association, American Legion and Y. M. C. A. have other primary interests, but give a very vigorous and helpful support to conservation matters. The individual member of an organization may not be an active conservationist but the commitment of the organization to the cause will be an important influence when he is faced with the necessity of making a decision on conservation questions. This potential strength needs only the call of leadership to

(*Continued on Page* 18)

MARYLAND FISHERIES

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT,
SWEPSON EARLE, COMMISSIONER.

No. 34 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND May, 1935

OUTLOOK FOR CRABS

A DISPATCH FROM CRISFIELD in the latter part of April, stated that watermen were overhauling and painting their boats and renewing their gear, packers were building floats and crab shanties, several new packing plants were being erected on the waterfront and other signs of activity presaged the opening of the crab season on May first.

A recent visit made to Crisfield by the Conservation Commissioner, when he conferred with a number of the crab packers in that famous center of the industry, showed a wide difference of opinion as to the outlook for the present season. Some were optimistic, while others were of the opinion that the month of May would use up the supply of crabs that had hibernated in Maryland waters over the winter, and after that the industry would have to look to the migration from Virginia for the balance of the season, the inference being that the supply from that source was somewhat uncertain.

Reviewing the statistics on the crab production in Maryland, as published in our Annual Report under the heading, "Comparative Report on Hard Crabs and Comparative Report on Peelers and Soft Crabs," we find that the production of hard crabs reached a high peak in 1931, with 296,038 barrels. In the same year 17,256,373 peelers and soft crabs were caught. Since then there has been an annual decline, until in 1934 the production of hard crabs dropped to 116,403 barrels and the number of peelers and soft crabs to 8,283,229—less than half of the 1931 production.

With the removal by Virginia of the protective laws on sponge crabs (which laws we believed were responsible for the marked increase in our production from 1926 to 1931) the decline since 1931 has been equally marked, and the Conservation Commissioner does not feel there is any reason to look for a great increase in our supply in 1935. The Commissioner

hopes his calculations are wrong, and he likewise hopes that Maryland and Virginia will some day see eye-to-eye on the matter of protection of a fishery that is of such vital importance to the citizens of both states as the crab industry.

HATCHERY FOR COMMERCIAL FISH

Sometime ago there was considerable agitation for the establishment by the Government of a hatchery for the propagation of the so-called commercial varieties of fish (particularly shad and herring) at the head of Chesapeake Bay. The Department would like to see such a hatchery established, but is of the opinion that the proper location is on one of the tributaries of the lower Eastern Shore.

During Easter week, while on a visit to Crisfield, the Commissioner noted that many ripe shad were being taken in the Pocomoke River. A hatchery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland would balance one which the Government now operates in the upper Potomac, and would assure a large production of shad and herring in our waters.

FLORIDA PROHIBITS THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF BLACK BASS

THE U. S. BUREAU OF FISHERIES has just received information that a bill prohibiting the sale of black bass at all times, regardless of where taken has just passed both branches of the Florida legislature and has been signed by the Governor. For sometime the Bureau has advocated the passage of similar bills in all those states which permitted the sale of black bass, believing that these game-fish are more valuable to the State for recreational purposes than commercially.

Florida is the THIRTY-SEVENTH STATE which has now adopted a law prohibiting the sale of black bass at all times regardless of where taken, and the eleventh state to adopt such a measure since the establishment of the Black Bass Division in the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries in 1931. Three were added to the list during the year 1935, namely, Delaware, Florida

and Indiana. The complete list of the eleven states to take such action since the division was established is as follows:

Delaware,
Florida,
Indiana,
Kansas,
Massachusetts,
North Carolina
North Dakota,
Oregon,
Pennsylvania,
Rhode Island,
West Virginia.

City ordinances were also adopted in Baltimore, Cumberland and Hagerstown. The sale of black bass is also absolutely prohibited in the District of Columbia.

The American Game Association and the Izaak Walton League of America and the State Fish and Game authorities of the State of Florida, and individuals, as well as the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, took an active part in securing the passage of this bill and all are to be congratulated on this accomplishment.

HAGERSTOWN CHAPTER OF IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

ONE of the most successful, and certainly one of the largest, meetings of the Hagerstown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League was held on the evening of April 23. There were 445 persons present, including members of the Izaak Walton League from Garrett, Alleghany and Frederick Counties.

The speakers included—

Governor Harry W. Nice;

Swepson Earle, Conservation Commissioner;

Talbott Denmead, U. S. Enforcement Officer, Angler's Division, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries;

E. Lee LeCompte, State Game Warden;

Dr. M. D'Arcy Magee, National Vice-President of the I. W. L.;

Ira W. Thomas, formerly of the Philadelphia Athletics.

Robert Irwin, Executive Secretary to Governor Nice and others.

A cup for the largest bass caught in Washington County waters during the 1934 season was presented to Leroy Renner, of Mapleville, Maryland. The fish was taken in the Potomac River at Taylors Landing and weighed 4 pounds, 3 ounces.

Officers elected for the current year include the following:

G. E. Habercom, President;

Charles F. Strolle, Vice-President;

Frank L. Bentz, Secretary;

Henry Ayers, Treasurer.

The Hagerstown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is one of the most active and progressive in the State and has always been most willing to cooperate with the Conservation Department.

FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT

From Fishing Gazette

DANIEL C. ROPER, Secretary of Commerce, has announced plans through which he hopes to see the American fishing industry restored to a normal degree of prosperity. In making this announcement the secretary said that he felt a greater general use of fish to supplement the present American diet will constitute an important factor in improving the health of the people through a better balanced nutritive diet.

As the first step in these plans, the secretary announced the appointment of a Fishery Advisory Committee for the Department of Commerce. The committee is headed by Bernarr Macfadden of New York, publisher, food expert and physical culturalist. The other members appointed by the secretary of the committee give the group a geographical, industrial, scientific, health and marketing and distribution representation. The list is as follows:

Dr. Henry Bryant Bigelow, zoologist and oceanographer, Professor of Zoology, Harvard University.

Dr. William Weston, M. D., child specialist, Columbia, South Carolina; an authority on the food and dietetic value of fishery products.

John J. Pelly, President, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C.

John C. Veatch, Portland, Oregon; lawyer and chairman of Oregon Fish Commission.

Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole, President, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Washington D. C.

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President of National Congress of Parent-Teacher, Chicago, Illinois.

Captain Val O'Neil, Fish Pier, Boston, Massachusette; President, Fishing Masters Association.

L. H. Smith, Smith Brothers, Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Nick Bez, Gig Harbor, Washington, and Juneau, Alaska; Alaskan fisherman and canneryman.

Captain Austin E. Lathrop, Glacier Sea Food Company, Cordova, Alaska.

Gardner Poole, refrigeration technician and affiliated with Birdseye Forest Foods Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. R. V. Truitt, College Park, Maryland; President, National Shellfisheries Association; Professor of Aquiculture, University of Maryland.

Harden F. Taylor, President, Atlantic Coast Fisheries Company, New York City.

Frank E. Welles; President and owner of the E. E. Saunders & Company, Pensacola, Florida.

R. P. Fletcher; President, Booth Fisheries Company, Chicago, Illinois.

Frank E. Booth; President, F. E. Booth Company, Los Angeles, California.

E. B. McGovern; President, McGovern & McGovern, salmon brokers, Seattle, Washington; President, Pacific Canned Salmon Brokers Association.

G. P. Maggioni; L. P. Maggioni & Company, Savannah, Georgia.

A. C. Wilford, Waterloo, Iowa; conservationist; President, Iowa District, Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.

O. G. Dale; conservationist; secretary, Salt Water Anglers of America, New York City.

Ex-Officio Members

The secretary also announced that he had invited the following to serve as ex-officio members of the Fishery Advisory Committee:

Senator Royal S. Copeland, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee.

Congressman Schuyler Otis Bland, Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine, Fisheries, and Radio.

Congressman Ralph O. Brewster, member of House Committee on Merchant Marine, Fisheries, and Radio.

Delegate Anthony J. Dimond of Alaska.

Frank T. Bell, Commissioner of Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce.

In announcing the steps that are to be taken to restore a prosperous situation within the fishing industry, Secretary Roper said:

The Plan in Mind

"Congressional enactments charge the Secretary of Commerce, through the Bureau of Fisheries, with the development, promotion, and regulation of the fisheries of the United States and its territories and dependencies. In order more effectively to fulfill this mandate, the Secretary has appointed this Committee whose function will be to advise and counsel with him on broad problems of research, scientific developments, catching, canning, and marketing of fish, the stabilizing of the industry, the general welfare of fishermen, and the nutritional aspects of fish as a foods product.

"The fishing industry, in common with other branches of business, has been hard hit during recent years. Falling prices for its products, which have not shown nearly as great a percentage of a return to the normal as have agricultural products, have placed many fisherman in dire circumstances. The industry reached a peak in 1929 when 123,000 fisherman obtained a catch of 3,567,000,000 pounds at a return of $123,-054,000. The low level was reached in 1932 when 116,000 fishermen obtained 2,614,000,000 pounds and received $54,764,000.

"Many other persons are employed ashore in handling, preparing, and marketing fish and fish products and these, too, are in the same distressed circumstances, as are the fishermen. Many trades, also, are affected by the fishing industries, such as the manufacturers of equipment, boxes, barrels, paper cartons, etc. It is estimated that in the peak year, 1929, the fishing industry represented a billion dollars in the economic structure of the nation, employed 250,000 men directly and as many more indirectly.

"In addition to the economic phases of this situation, the Fishery Advisory Committee is being asked to give particular

attention to the food values of fish as a contribution to the health of the entire nation. Seafoods are rich sources of minerals because ever since there have been land and water the minerals of the land have been steadily carried down to the sea through streams. Of the six most important minerals in the diet of man, most fish or seafoods have five and some six. The per capita consumption of fish in the United States is lower than that of any other important country, thus creating a significant opportunity for a greater use of fish as a food."

Current studies made by the Bureau of Fisheries reveal that in the present upward trend of food prices, fish and seafoods have advanced less than many other items of the American diet, a Department of Commerce announcement said.

GOVERNMENT BEGINS OYSTER PEST INVESTIGATIONS

THE CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE providing $500,000 for the investigation, control and eradication of marine organism injurious to shellfish in the Atlantic and Gulf States was vetoed by President Roosevelt with the statement that he "was not satisfied that this large appropriation would accomplish the result hoped for." The President did, however, approve an item of $100,000 for this purpose contained in an amendment to the Department of Commerce Appropriation Act, which he signed on March 22.

According to a news item appearing in the *Fisheries Service Bulletin,* issued monthly by the U. S. Department of Commerce, half of the $100,000 appropriation is immediately available, and plans are being completed rapidly for beginning active field studies under the direction of Dr. P. S. Galtsoff, chief oyster investigator of the Bureau of Fisheries.

The Atlantic and Gulf coastal area where oysters are produced will be divided into three sections, with a Bureau of Fisheries oyster expert in charge of each. The first section includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. The second section takes in the coastal states from Maryland to Georgia, and Dr. H. F. Prytherch will have supervision of the work in this section.

The investigations will deal with the three most serious oyster enemies, viz: the starfish, confined chiefly to the New England and North Atlantic States; the drill or screw borer, found in the Middle and South Atlantic States and also along the Gulf

of Mexico, and which has caused considerable damage in the oyster beds of our own Chesapeake Bay tributaries, such as Tangier Sound, and lastly the "wafer" or "leech", a species of worm which has caused great destruction in the waters of Florida.

Field and laboratory experiments will be carried on, according to the *Service Bulletin,* "to discover practical physical, chemical, or biological methods of control. Research work will be centered at the Bureau of Fisheries' Laboratories at Woods Hole, Mass., Milford, Conn., Beaufort, N. C., and at a temporary laboratory to be established near Apalachicola, Fla."

OYSTER GROWERS AND DEALERS TO MEET IN MAY

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Oyster Growers and Dealers Association of North America will be held this year in Washington, D. C. The dates selected are May 20, 21 and 22, and the meeting will take place at the Hotel Washington. As this notice goes to press the program is not yet complete, but an interesting meeting is promised and a large attendance is hoped for. Because of the proximity of the meeting place, it is expected that a large representation from Maryland will be present.

SHELTER FOR FISHING WATERS

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission is sponsoring a "Plant-A-Willow" campaign to increase shade and cover along the trout and other fishing waters of that State. The planting of willow slips by farmers, landowners and fishermen along the banks of meadow streams which lack shade is being urged. The rapid growth of willow trees from the planting of slips makes them particularly adaptable for this purpose, and the root system of this species is extensive and serves to create additional cover above and below the water line.

The *Pennsylvania Angler,* which carries the story on the "Plant-A-Willow" campaign, states: "Every fisherman can do his part in planting willow slips this spring by pruning a handful of the slips from large trees and sticking them in swampy

or moist sections along the shores of too open areas. No great depth is required; simply insert the sharpened end of the slip into the ground so that it will stand upright in its base and be firm enough to maintain this position on windy days. Shade is not the only consideration in willow planting. Trout particularly need insect food as a major source of forage, and additional foliage along trout stream banks provide just that much more growth in which insect life may thrive. WILLOW PLANTING WILL HELP YOUR FISHING."

CONSERVATION WINS PUBLIC OPINION

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blossom into active support, and in this there is reason to be very hopeful for the future. The unselfish and persistent work of the various organizations has been of tremendous service in the molding of the public mind.

These four then are the major factors which have made today's public opinion: first, the personal experiences of millions of individuals on their vacation trips; second, the conservation training of the youth; third, the public relations of the states and national conservation departments, and, fourth, the activities of large organizations. Doubtless there are other factors which have been important, but the power behind them may be found rooted in one or more of those above named.

As here indicated we have today a well organized source of conservation campaigning, and a more or less unknown and unvoiced public opinion for conserving natural resources. What of the future?

Just a couple of years ago a new and unexpected factor entered the picture, Emergency Conservation Work. This is the national plan to further conservation on a scale never before attempted. President Roosevelt presented the plan to Congress, which authorized its accomplishment. While its major purpose is the rehabilitation of young men, its co-major aim is the rehabilitation of natural resources. The first is a story in itself which cannot be dealt with here. The second concerns us, not only for the moment, but even more for the future.

For over two years Emergency Conservation Work has been carried on, accomplishing work in the forests and public lands, which in most cases has been planned by the forestry depart-

ments. Under normal conditions neither the federal or state departments could have hoped to accomplish these plans for years; some of them might never have been completed. The ECW will bring the state and national conservation program almost up to date.

Thus, when this emergency work is completed, the natural resources of the state will be put in such a condition that wise administration will begin to return to the American people something of true worth and value. The work will bring dividends, not only in the production of wood products and the payment of funds to the community and the state in lieu of taxes, but will also provide enlarged opportunities for the ever-increasing desires of the American people for outdoor recreation.

The other result of emergency work is the public opinion toward the work, and conservation as a whole. This may precipitate and crystalize public opinion. It may be the crisis and the historical point from which the movement will go forward with a big step, or come to a dead stop.

There are some 275,000 young men in the 1,300 camps over the country, and the personnel changes from period to period. During the two years, divided into four periods, there will be nearly a half million boys who have been in the camps. It is the opinions they form and the reports that they carry back to be passed on to their family circles and friends that may determine the future of conservation.

In 1933, at the start of the emergency work, there was a public opinion which would have supported and carried on the normal growth of conservation work from year to year. During the last and in the coming year a program of emergency conservation field work equal to ten or twenty years of normal progress will be accomplished. Public understanding and opinion should increase at the same pace, if it is to intelligently support the 1935 conservation program.

I believe this to be true and that there is every evidence of a greater and more active public approval for the future.

This belief is based solely on the assumption that the conservation campaign of the past twenty years has produced a permanent public opinion, that it has effected a correct understanding of the values and uses, and molded a desire to perpetuate the greatest of all American heritages. There is a well-laid foundation upon which the superstructure of emer-

gency work will take form. The superstructure will enable the people to realize more fully the human and national need of the outdoors. It is the ultimate and complete use of those resources, which will return "the greatest good to the greatest number of people." This is indeed fitting.

America began with forests, but grew and prospered by their destruction. Now the forests are to be brought back, not for the one original product of wood, but for additional products and uses as well. When this is done then, and only then, will forestry assume its rightful place beside agriculture, manufacturing, mining, commerce and industry, the things that constitute the humanistic, economic and social structure of American stability and prosperity.

TROUT SEASON IN GARRETT COUNTY

AN INTERESTING report comes from Warden Elmer Haulenbeek, who is the Department's officer in charge of the enforcement of the fish and game laws at Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County.

Warden Haulenbeek states that there have been some mighty fine trout caught in the lake since the opening of the season. The largest seen was a 22-inch rainbow trout, weighing 4½ pounds, and the largest brook trout was 16½ inches. A great many 14- and 17-inch rainbows have been taken. Garrett County has shared in the generally abundant rainfall this spring, and the lake and feeder streams are very high. On the streams entering the lake, Meadow Mountain Run is said to have provided the best fishing, and one fisherman caught the limit three days running.

Quoting from Warden Haulenbeek's report, "One of the prettiest sights I have seen was at the breast of the dam (Deep Creek Lake) the other day when a 17-inch rainbow gave a fisherman a 20-minute battle. This fish broke water three times. There were about 20 fishermen there, and I assure you there was no fishing done during that fight. Yesterday afternoon (May 13) up at Red Run, I saw a trout jump that must have been two feet long. Have also seen schools of pike, probably 25 in a bunch, all at least two feet long."

An increasing number of Maryland and out-of-state anglers are discovering this beautiful body of water situated in the high hills of the Alleghanies.